

PROPOSED PALMER PARK PAY & DISPLAY- OBJECTIONS TO TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

APPENDIX 1 - Summary of letters of support, objections and comments received to Traffic Regulation Order

Street/Summary	Objections/support/comments received.
	<p>Summary of responses: Objections - 63, Support - 8, Comment - 4.</p>
<p>1) Church user, Objection</p>	<p>I am writing with reference to the parking charges that are being proposed at Palmer park opposite the church been teaching [REDACTED] in the church hall for over [REDACTED] years and have many students who park in the parking area (including myself) whilst we hold our classes.</p> <p>To impose a charge on us when we are actively supporting and hiring the halls seems very unfair. There are many reasons why I feel this new proposal to charge for parking needs to be rethought out.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I and others that regularly hire and use the halls need somewhere secure and safe to park 2. I could not leave a class mid-way to pay for parking tickets particularly when they are young children being left under my care. 3. Parents will be driven away from attending [REDACTED] when they have more cost to pay and then I will lose numbers of income, and then of course the church will also lose income/hirers if class numbers drop and as a result classes will have to be cancelled. This will cause a knock-on effect of problems and issues arising out of imposing this charge on people that are using the local community facilities. 4. Maybe a permit scheme could be set in place for all hall hirers to have a special badge and we could perhaps list our members so they can also be covered with a list of cars/regs numbers?? 5. I do understand that you want to stop random parking on the park grounds but to target us (the regular users of the church halls) seems unfair. <p>I am not sure... but I do know that the council need to understand that teachers such as myself need a place to park whilst using the local facilities and should not be penalised or made to pay more when the hire charges are already very high.</p> <p>My job only generates a very small, low income, and I keep my class charges to just a few pounds a lesson, however, I teach because I enjoy helping the local children to give them a chance to learn [REDACTED]. This area is also not a very affluent area so extra charges will drive parents away from signing their children up to</p>

	<p>learn within my classes and I really just cannot afford to have a pay additional costs just to park my car to use the church every week.</p>
2) Church user, Objection	<p>I am shocked to find you are attempting to charge users of the Park Church building parking in the church car park.</p> <p>Free use of this has been established for over 100 years; custom and practice has long since been established.</p> <p>Secondly it has been signed prominently as the “Church Car Park” for the 19 years I have been using it and this was never objected by the Council.</p> <p>Thirdly this affects all sorts of community groups in addition to church goers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The disabled, • Mothers with small children • Ethnic minority groups who by the eclectic nature of their organisation come from a distance. <p>Which would effectively be pushed out.</p> <p>Forthly, I am delighted to hear that you have asked the Police, who said it was ok, but they are not actually parking there and I guess you are not going to be charging police cars but targeting softer targets like old ladies of limited mobility and less likely to argue.</p> <p>I look forward to the prompt and complete withdrawal of this threat.</p>
3) Church user, Objection	<p>It has been brought to attention that there is a proposal to charge for parking in the designated area for Park Church, Palmer Park. As the leader of a [REDACTED] who meet weekly at Park Church I wish to express my extreme concern at this proposal.</p> <p>I’m quite sure you are aware that isolation among members of our society is a major issue that leads not only to the detriment of their social wellbeing but also restricts physical activity with resultant physical and mental health issues. At a time when, as a society, we are encouraged to be aware of and support those around us who may have become isolated due to ill health, financial constraints...etc. This action to charge for parking a center that provides a wide range of social activities for all ages, is likely to have a major effect on the social and physical wellbeing of very many people. Certainly, the older “pensioner” attendees of the group I lead have very limited funds.</p>

	<p>Park Church does what it can to support community groups such as the one I lead but, like everyone, they have ever increasing overheads and other financial pressures. This proposed added financial burden could have major implications for the local community as a whole as well as Park Church. Due to downright hard work and immense dedication of the many volunteers and community leaders who help to run Park Church and its activities, it has become a most valuable and much-love community venue. I ask that you reconsider this proposal and abandon any ideas to charge for parking.</p>
<p>4) Church user, Objection</p>	<p>I'm writing to you about the Palmer Park Pay and Display consultation, in particular the area of land on the corner of Wokingham Road and Palmer Park Avenue currently used by the Park United Reformed Church for car parking.</p> <p>As a [REDACTED] group that puts on one production a month, we regularly use the halls and rooms at Park URC for rehearsal space and production meetings. We are opposed to the proposed car park charges as this would add a significant cost for any of our members who drive in from outside Reading to rehearse in the evenings and weekends. This cost would prevent some of our members from being able to participate in our productions due to the sudden extra expenditure.</p> <p>I have myself participated in and directed rehearsals there, as well as performing chaperoning duties for another local [REDACTED] group that was performing there, so I have personal experience of how important these facilities are and what a valuable contribution they make to the community.</p> <p>We understand that Park URC are also disappointed with the prospect of the car parking charges due to be imposed on their church members, as well as the other groups that regularly use their halls, and we would add our strong concerns to theirs.</p>
<p>5) Church user, Objection</p>	<p>I'm writing to you regarding the Palmer Park Pay and Display consultation, in particular the area of land on the corner of Wokingham Road and Palmer Park Avenue currently used by the Park United Reformed Church for car parking.</p> <p>As a [REDACTED] group that puts on one production a month, we regularly use the halls and rooms at Park URC for rehearsal space and production meetings. We are opposed to the proposed car park charges as this would add a significant cost for any of our members who drive in from outside Reading to rehearse in the evenings and weekends. This cost would prevent some of our members from being able to participate in our productions due to the sudden extra expenditure.</p>

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<p>6) Palmer Park user, Objection</p>	<p>I would like to object to any imposition of charges in Palmer Park stadium car park</p> <p>I am a part time employee of Palmer Park and coach the [REDACTED] during the summer, from mid March to end of September. Sometimes i also cover Tuesday evenings. We have cyclists arriving in cars about half hour before their session starts at 8.15pm lasting until 9.45pm. The session is only 1.5 hrs but they need time before and afterwards to pay and get organised for the session then pack their gear afterwards and load bikes back into the cars. They will need longer than 2 hrs free parking. 3hrs would be better.</p> <p>I also arrive about [REDACTED] for the session and leave about [REDACTED] so I'm there for 2.5 hrs and don't wish to pay a charge for the privilege of working there. Again i need 3 hrs on Thursday evenings.</p> <p>I also act as a [REDACTED] League through the summer which runs 7 - 9.30pm with riders arriving around 6pm to get ready and often not getting away before 10pm so that's 4 hrs. Riders and officials won't be able to run out halfway through the evening to put money in a machine and get a ticket for their car. Some officials often arrive before 6pm, I usually arrive about [REDACTED]</p> <p>Imposing charges on Riders for this event will cause a catastrophic drop in numbers and probably make running the Track League impossible. Riders have other opportunities and will take them up</p> <p>If you must make charges you need to make it free for people who pay and use the track or set a sensible free limit of at least 4hrs which would be more realistic. Anything that imposes further charges on cyclists will cause them to vote with their feet and do something else for which there are plenty of opportunities out there. The stadium will lose bookings and customers which will be counter-productive given the drive to get people more active. I will have to consider whether it's worth my while working there unless you give staff a free parking pass.</p> <p>I agree there are people who use the car park simply as a car park, the drug dealers at night and people who park there then get a bus into town. If you could separate them and charge only them that would be fine but i don't know how you would do that, or which part you would separate, the car park is often very busy anyway, particularly at change over times when parents are collecting child athletes and cyclists are starting to arrive for their session.</p>

	<p>Another option might be to make the car park free after 6pm which would help a lot of people.</p> <p>I hope you will understand that this is an impossible suggestion which will be counter-productive for the use of the stadium and track.</p>
7) Church users, Objection	<p>I am a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] and I hold a [REDACTED] church service on every Sunday hiring a room in Park united reformed church and our people park in the car park opposite to the church . I understand that the council is having a consultation to arrange a pay and display for the particular car park.</p> <p>I would like to give our collective views on this consultation, as a community we are around 40 people and we gather regularly on every Sunday to worship. The following are the issues we might have on the changes to the car parking service</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Difficulty in parking which affects the people interest to gather for worship 2. we might have to look for somewhere else and this might affect the revenue of the park united church itself 3. we also have big gatherings for festivals , having car park charges will affect people community <p>We would be grateful if this is not initiated which will enable us to worship and commute with our community.</p>
8) Palmer Park users, Support	<p>Consideration around parent and child use of parking for the park facilities. If paying for parking as a visitor to the play area, I would expect a clean and safe well equipped play area. Unfortunately, the park is very dirty with lots of old litter embedded within the greenery.</p>
9) Objection	<p>The Park should be free to all users except for people parking all day to visit Reading centre</p>
10) Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>Paying for parking will limit use by the community.</p>
11) Objection	<p>Parking permits are just an easy and unimaginative way for Reading Council to raise money and then waste it on more unnecessary bus lanes. You shouldn't be charging people who use the park for leisure or keeping fit activities. Why not take a proper look at how the IDR works, who uses it and how, e.g. Traffic crossing the town for school drop offs etc. Making Sidmouth St one way towards the station would mean two lanes could turn right off London Road and ease the turning right queue and stop the engine idling. Penalise people who double park outside the shops in Wokingham Road opposite Alfred Sutton School.</p> <p>Reading Councils lack of imagination and poor economic management will catch up with them in the next</p>

	elections.
12)Objection	<p>I object this proposal.</p> <p>The parking in Palmer Park is the only free parking available around East of Reading. Are we limiting sports and socialising to two hours? And why should there be night charges? If these charges get implemented, what happens to visitors to the area who stay more than one day? Are they getting reduced charges? Please consider that Reading is a very multicultural town, with many regular visitors from Europe who do come by car. What will happen to the collected money, does it get fed back to the park e.g to collect rubbish?</p>
13)Resident, Objection	<p>We live locally but have friends who attend events regularly at Palmer Park - these events last approx 2 hrs plus arrival/depart. They also use Palmer park stadium and the cafe. I think putting a levy on this people already contributing will be short sighted. We also have vouchers for people to park in our street that already is permit only. Issue we have is that quite often there isn't any parking so they use the stadium at that time Will the money generated from parking be specifically ring fenced for Palmer Park improvements and upkeep?</p>
14)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>I object to the proposal of parking fees at Palmer Park.</p> <p>I do not think it is right to charge people to visit the park. It will stop me and my family visiting the park for longer than 2hrs.</p>
15)Support	<p>Parking at Palmer Park should be for users of the park not for local residents or businesses vehicles.</p>
16)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>I do not support this at all.</p> <p>We are a family of [REDACTED] who love using the centre and the park and for that to be taken away and start paying is just a slippery slope for all our leisure centres and parks to start charging which is unaffordable. The best thing is that it's free to park there and we can spend afternoon at the park! As usual the council have decided to punish us for something we enjoy...if you start charging it will mean less people come to the park and ruin the community feel of Palmer park. (Feels accessible to all)</p>
17)Church user, Comments	<p>I think it is a good idea to have this scheme in the stadium carpark but think an alternative needs to be found for the church carpark as it will have a big negative impact on groups that use the hall. Could exemption permits be issued to the church so that people who are using the hall can still park in that carpark? Anyone without a permit would then be subject to the new arrangements as per the stadium carpark. Alternatively could the free period in the evenings for the church carpark only be three hours instead of two as lots of meetings run for just over 2 hours?</p>
18)Church user,	<p>While I understand the motivation to prioritise facilities users, it seems that short shrift has been given to the</p>

Objection	adjacent church hall, which acts as a community hub for a great many groups in Reading. The area is not well served by public transportation from anywhere save a few specific directions, and accessing it is therefore difficult without driving. Continuing to add and increase parking charges in the Reading area without providing efficient, affordable alternatives will simply cause people to stop visiting the areas entirely.
19)Church user, Objection	<p>I am the [REDACTED] of Park United Reformed Church which uses the small car parking area in the corner of Palmer Park Avenue and Wokingham Road. My objections to the scheme being proposed are as follows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was the understanding of the Church that this area was set aside for Church and hall users use. Cabinet Agreement was sought and Approved http://committee.reading.gov.uk/TROVEPROGS/TROVEIIS.DLL?/IS=17683983/LI=Committee+Minutes+Library/ID=40/OS=14+76+105/DI=3814/DS=3822/LO=1/RW=2560/RH=1080/CD=32/VD=committee/WV=7/ST=ac/AC=AP/FI=442/HU=EmptyURL Item 192 2. Failure by Council Officers to implement this Decision should not disadvantage the Church and users of the premises. 3. If such a scheme were to be implemented this would seriously jeopardise the viability of the church to attract hall users as many are minority groups with members travelling to meetings. Many of the events are held in the evenings which add further complexities to journeys. 4. The funding for the development of the church building was based on the understanding that car parking would be available, hence the seeking of the Lease Agreement. The church continues to pay for the cost of loans for the development and if charges are implemented and the church incurs a loss of income this will have serious financial consequences. 5. As a way forward the Church would welcome the opportunity to discuss future arrangements particularly the evening charge of £2 for a stay longer than 2 hours and any possible permit scheme which would enable our staff and Trustees/Elders to carry out their duties without charge.
20)Church user, Objection	<p>As a user of park United Reformed Church I think that introducing car parking charges will have a severe detrimental effect on the church. Not only for worshipers, but for other user in the community that use it for many other purposes. The list of organisations that use the church is too long to mention here but the premises are in constant use by the community.</p> <p>A significant portion of church users are elderly or disabled as well as young parents with push chairs and babies. Car parking charges would probably put these people off from using the church premises</p>
21)General, Objection	<p>I have three objections to the proposal as written:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The park was granted to the people of Reading not the Council. What is the legal basis for the Council

	<p>charging the people of Reading for use of their park?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An area of the park has been identified and agreed to be used as parking for Park United Reformed Church and has been for decades. Charging said Church users for that car park breaks this agreement. - Related to the point above, the Park United Reformed Church and it's building is used extensively as a community asset. It particularly serves women, ethnic minorities and people on low incomes. The charge proposal negatively affects these already disadvantaged groups significantly. <p>I request that the proposal is amended to nullify or mitigate the impact on legitimate users of the park and Park United Reformed Church. Perhaps a permit system could be used or the amount of free time extended eg. 3 hours free parking and/or free parking on weekends.</p>
22) Church user, Additional comments	<p>I have written already to the council in respect of this proposal objecting.</p> <p>In further consideration I should like to add that Park URC has provided amenities to many in our local community who then use our premises. In fact, our premises are in nearly constant use throughout the week. This proposal, with the offer of 2 hours free parking is helpful. Should that free period be increased to 3 hours, then most of problems of objection could be resolved.</p>
23) General, Objection	<p>It is the earlier actions of Reading Borough that has resulted in these proposals. This knock on effect will cause distress to those residents and users in and around Palmer Park. A proper overall policy should be considered before attempting to resolve issues in a piecemeal approach that will not gain support.</p>
24) Church user, Objection	<p>As a longtime member of Park United Reformed Church, I would be very concerned that charging for parking will have a detrimental impact on the service that we provide to many groups from all sections of the community. Our Sunday worship and many of our other activities extend over two hours, and this would cause an issue with your proposed charging policy, as a minimum could the free period be increased to three hours? I also believe that the Church had been granted a 25 lease on the car park, but we have been waiting for a significant time for completion of the paperwork by the council. In the meantime the condition of the car park has significantly deteriorated to the extent that it is potentially dangerous to our elderly and infirm users, we would be very grateful if this issue could be resolved.</p>
25) Church user, Objection	<p>I am a member of Park United Reformed Church and I understand that the church has recently been informed that there will be car parking charges imposed on all parking in Palmer Park including our own 'designated' area. It had been our understanding that this area would be excluded from the scheme, as we had negotiated but not signed a 'Lease' agreement. Although I do not now own a car myself, I believe that this will adversely affect our church members and hall users. One of our main aims at Park URC is to be as inclusive as</p>

	possible to the whole community which I believe is key to everyone's spiritual and physical health and wellbeing. I urge you, please, to ensure that our church members and hall users are still able to use our premises with as much ease as possible.
26) Church user, Objection	I think users of the Palmer Park Church Hall should be able to display some sort of permit or something to park for free. It makes it a much less desirable space to hire if parking charges are applied.
27) Church user, Objection	Park URC is part of the community, those attending it should be able to park freely in order to worship God.
28) Church user, Objection	I am a [REDACTED] working with [REDACTED] at Park United Reformed Church on a weekly voluntary basis and my car would be parked in the facility adjoining Palmer Park Avenue for more than two hours each week. I feel that as volunteers I and my other leaders should not have to pay to park our cars; nor should I have to take the funds out of the subscription which the children pay termly as this money is there for us to run the meetings and provide activities etc for the children's benefit. I would like to think that if the proposed charge is introduced there would be some exemption for volunteers at Park United Reformed Church.
29) Church user, Objection	<p>As a member and Elder of Park United Reformed Church, I regularly visit the church and use the parking facility adjacent to Palmer Park Avenue. My business at the church often involves 2 or 3 visits a week, either during the day or evenings, sometimes for 3 or more hours at a time. There are days when a number of church members will be involved in activities at the church that last for most of the day.</p> <p>I am also responsible for setting up and running [REDACTED] exams on behalf of the [REDACTED] - these are held at Park Church for three sessions during the year (approx 5 weeks in each session), during which time I again make use of the car park from around 8.30am to 5.30pm each day. Visiting music examiners will be there for a similar amount of time.</p> <p>I understand that this area of the car park was made available for users of Park Church some years ago, and as there is no other long-term parking available in the vicinity of the church I hope very much that the existing arrangement can be retained, maybe with the introduction of permits for church users. I object strongly to any suggestion that those participating in voluntary and charity-based work should be forced into a position where paying for parking is the only option.</p>
30) Church user, Objection	I am a member of Park United Reformed Church and regularly use the Church car park for church related activities. Parking charges would be a problem because there are certain Church events where members (myself included) would be at Church for more than 2 hours and would thus have to pay for parking which I would object to. This is clearly different to people who park in the main Palmer Park Car park for the leisure facilities who would probably nearly always be there for less than 2 hours. We also have a number of Scout and guide organisations (as well as other charities) which meet at our premises where leaders regularly drive

	and stay for more than 2 hours and would therefore have to stay for more than 2 hours. I feel it is unfair for them to have to pay for parking when they are volunteering their time to benefit the young people of Reading.
31)Church user, Objection	I am a regular user of the park United reformed church. I do not agree with having to pay to park every week to attend a place of worship or activity in the week. The car park had been designated as a church car park for years and the church community has taken full responsibility for the upkeep of this car park.
32)Church user, Objection	A lot of community projects that use the church and need access for parking either for people with disability, the elderly and for carrying heavy objects to and from the halls. It is also not felt as a safe area and having a car helps instead of walking and you are hitting peoples wallets who can't afford to pay for things like this when the group they go to is for free and offers support in great need.
33)Church user, Objection	<p>I am a member of Park United Reformed Church and we are very fortunate to be able to use the car park at the bottom of Palmer Park Avenue free of charge. I believe the church has had discussions with the council in the past and an agreement was reached whereby the car park was leased to the church free of charge. Despite several requests by the church, the council never provided written documentation of this agreement, however I do believe the agreement was minuted in meeting notes. It would be very difficult for me and many other church users to be charged car parking after 2 hours. On a Sunday morning, and once a month on a Sunday afternoon and evening, we are often on the premises and therefore using the car park for over 2 hours, and at other times things can easily over run and go over the 2 hours. You can appreciate that when we are offering community services to those in need, you cannot call 'time' on someone who needs our time! I see from your description, that the parking arrangements should help people use the amenities - surely that applies to us? I completely understand the need to combat those that take advantage of parking areas, especially to avoid paying for parking - we have this problem in our car park - although we have a sign that clearly states that people parking there should be users of the car park, often other people use it. I'm sure that you also can appreciate that, as a large premises, we hire out our rooms at very reasonable costs to bring in money to pay for the upkeep and running of those premises, and car parking charges may dissuade people from hiring.</p> <p>To me, there seem to be several fair options, if the car parking charges go ahead:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Give church users passes/permits to display in their windscreens so that they are exempt from charges 2) If 1) was not possible, cancel parking charges at the weekend.
34)Church user, Objection	As a regular user of Park URC church, both for services and community groups, I am concerned that the car park area currently used by Park URC church has been included in the pay and display proposals. A lot of community groups and charities use the church premises as well as church members/visitors attending church services.
35)Church user,	I am concerned that these parking charges particularly in relation to the area designated to Park United

Objection	Reform Church will adversely impact on regular churchgoers and those communities using the church halls. As a council RBC should be encouraging and supporting these activities and not, as it appears putting obstacles in the way.
36)Palmer Park User, Objection	<p>Other sports centres I use which have pay car parks do not charge their users to park.</p> <p>As I am both a user and a volunteer at Palmer Park I would resent paying parking in either scenario if it increases my costs (meaning activities cost more or I'm forced to pay to volunteer on top of my travel costs which I don't get refunded).</p> <p>Also both of the activities listed above normally last longer than 2 hours.</p> <p>If I was to use the car park outside of the above two use cases I would not have an issue with paying, there are already too many commercial vehicles dumped in there overnight, so anything to get rid of them is acceptable - maybe just a ban on overnight parking which is enforced.</p> <p>Based on the current wording I therefore object.</p>
37)Palmer Park User, Objection	<p>Why discourage people from attending the stadium to participate in sports events?</p> <p>At any rate, a 2 hour free period is insufficient for certain events eg Monday night cycling where a 4 hour period is more appropriate.</p> <p>And why the need to charge after 6pm?</p>
38)Palmer Park User, Objection	<p>I object to the proposal to only give free parking for 2 hours. As a regular user of the velodrome at Palmer Park, this is not long enough for most sessions e.g. Monday evening track league. I would support a 3 or 4 hour period - still short enough to stop people parking there for the day.</p> <p>If parking charges are introduced, there should be a permit scheme to help race officials and helpers, although this would not assist me personally.</p>
39)Palmer Park User, Objection	<p>Whilst I appreciate parking charges are necessary, this will impact users of the facility disproportionately. A 2 Hour threshold might be adequate for gym users, but not for users of the athletics track of velodrome, where a session is invariably longer than two hours. Much larger grace periods are usual for those competing or training at equivalent facilities.</p>
40)Palmer Park User, Objection	<p>While I understand the issues driving the proposed changes, 2 hrs of free parking is not sufficient for most of those attending cycling events in the stadium. Monday night sessions are more than 2 hours if you include set up/put away time (training or track league). Saturday morning sessions are at least 2 hours, more for those taking part in different sessions and coaches/officials.</p>

	To avoid issues it would be better to have a longer free period of up to 4 hours, but have shorter out of hours periods to avoid overnight stays and reduce use by non-stadium users.
41)Palmer Park User, Support	I understand the need to introduce charges as the new residents' parking scheme in the roads off Wokingham Road will lead to more people wanting to take advantage of free parking in the park. I think that the charges are reasonable and fair but I think there should be an exemption for members of the Palmer Park Bowls club. Many taking part in matches will need more than 2 hours, and they do not all come from the local area. However many do so I doubt that this would have a significant impact
42)Palmer Park User, Objection	I ride track league at Palmer Park Stadium which starts @ 7pm and finishes around 9:30pm so allowing for sing on and warm up for track league I'd need to park for approximately 3:30 hours. As a user of the stadium I wouldn't expect there to be an extra cost to park.
43)Palmer Park User, Objection	<p>The suggested free parking period of 2 hours is too short for many of the activities that take place at the park. As a family, we are involved in a number that would see us incurring charges.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Palmer Park Velo sessions on Saturday mornings in the velodrome - as a [REDACTED] involved in running these sessions I am routinely there from 8.45 until 12.30-13.00. Even if I was not coaching, as one of our more senior riders, my son is often there for all the sessions we run across the morning. This applies to a number of our members including families who have riders attending different sessions. 2. Monday night track league - Racing at track league typically involves arriving at 18.30 for a 19.00 start with the racing finishing at around 21.30 giving a minimum duration of 3 hours. For organizers, this can be longer. 3. Thursday night Cyclocross training in the park - As riders, we typically arrive at 18.45 and leave around 21.00. Again for the volunteer coaches who run this session, this can be longer.
44)Church user, Objection	<p>The car park on the corner of Palmer Park Avenue should not be changed to incur car park charges. The church premises are a huge part of the surrounding community, used by many different groups for many different purposes and are in constant use seven days a week throughout the year. It was agreed with the council some years ago that users of the church premises at Park United Reformed church would have use of this area due to restricted parking in the surrounding area and that the church would help maintain this small part of the park.</p> <p>It would also be very unsympathetic when a funeral for instance is taking place to expect family members and friends to pay - as you would not be charging for people to attend services at the crematorium. Likewise for weddings.</p> <p>For people with limited mobility and for parents with very young children who are attending events in the premises, this would add an extra layer of danger whilst trying to make the necessary payment.</p>

	As the premises are a vital part of the local and wider part of the community, I ask you not to introduce payment to this small but necessary area of the park.
45)Palmer Park User, Support	<p>As the Reading Branch of the British Sub Aqua Club (Reading BSAC) our issues are probably very modest compared with those around a big sporting event at the stadium itself. We lease from RBC, part of the Palmer Park Depot Compound.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We meet every week, at least once, but usually on a Thursday evening, when we have up to about 40 people. Say 30 vehicles. ● Occasionally, we have larger meetings with guest speakers. ● We have weekend training meetings, often over Saturday and Sunday, where 30 people may attend. ● About four of our Committee Members can spend a couple of days a week at our clubhouse, working on our boats and other equipment, or on our clubhouse. This is irregular. <p>It would be very useful if this small number of Club Officers did not have to pay full parking charges on every occasion we visit for half a day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We have concerns about the parking of large vans at Palmer Park, as this has increased over time, and it is not always simple to get our boats in and out. ● Will there be charging for parking after 1800 hrs? ● We also have concerns about Disabled Parking, at times such as over the last few months, when the Palmer Park Compound has been rather full of materials and equipment of a construction contractor
46)Church user, Objection	Many of those connected with Park URC not only attend church services, but also take part in events held in the building throughout the week. It will prove very costly for them to have to pay each time they use the car park.
47)Palmer Park user, Objection	2 hrs is not sufficient free parking for the sports events I do at Palmer park.
48)Palmer Park user, Support	<p>At Reading BSAC, we have now seen your specific proposals, of 15 August 19, as regards parking charges.</p> <p>https://consult.reading.gov.uk/dens/palmer-park-pay-and-display-</p>

	<p>consultation/supporting_documents/Palmer%20Park%20Notice%20.pdf</p> <p>We have already submitted comments, and this is additional.</p> <p>8 pm to 6am "no parking charge for 2 hours" will be quite limiting on our Thursday club nights. We often have a group of people for 4 hrs +.</p>
49)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>While I agree that the car park should be safeguarded for leisure centre and park users, this needs to allow for users who are there for an extended time period. Users of the cycling track (for training and racing events), athletics track (for training and competition) and even the parkland itself can often need to be there for a whole morning, afternoon and occasionally all day.</p> <p>A better system might be similar to that employed in some hotels, where users of the centre can input their registration in order to be allowed free parking for the duration of their stay.</p>
50)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>If the council is truly trying to encourage an active lifestyle, charging for using sports and leisure facilities is acting against this goal.</p>
51)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>I ride regularly at the velodrome, both evening track meets and open meetings at weekends.</p> <p>The current proposals will mean that I have to pay a lot for parking.</p> <p>For instance, on a Monday night I may arrive as early as 5pm and not leave until 9pm.</p> <p>Track meet timings are variable, but can last all day.</p> <p>Competitors already pay high entry fees and should not have to pay for parking. Neither should officials, many of whom are volunteers and give generously of their time.</p> <p>No other velodrome charges competitors at all.</p>
52)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>We run a soccer school in half terms at Palmer Park & we have coaches who are there from 09:30 until 15:30, this will have an effect on how much we charge for coaches as they will have the added expense.</p>
53)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>Parking charges should not apply to people using facilities in the park, such as the Leisure Centre, Sports areas, the Café, The Library, or visiting the council provided refuse and recycling bins. Additionally, the designated area for the Park United Reform Church should not incur charges - this area is used by both members of the congregation and also users of the church's facilities where a number of groups / clubs regularly meet for various activities such as rehearsals, club meetings etc.</p> <p>The only people who should incur charges are those members of the public who park in these areas simply for convenience with no connection to the facilities provided.</p>
54)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>I am writing as [REDACTED] of Palmer Park Velo, a youth cycling club based at Palmer Park Stadium. We run sessions on Saturday mornings, Monday evenings, Tuesday evenings and Thursday evenings.</p> <p>We note the reasons why RBC are looking to introduce parking charges at Palmer Park. However, the stated</p>

	<p>charges (2hours free and then a charge) will impact our ability to deliver sessions to our members.</p> <p>All our sessions are at least 2 hours long, and with time to arrive and leave, they would all fall outside of the 2hour free parking timeframe. This will add parking costs to the session fees for our members, potentially impacting their participation in sport.</p> <p>It will greatly impact the ability of our volunteers to deliver sessions to the riders. Our volunteer coaches, helpers etc all arrive before the session starts, and leave after everyone has gone, being well outside the 2hr free time limit. They will end up paying to park, when they are delivering sessions for free.</p>
55)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>Is there evidence than non users are parking there? It sounds like a preemptive measure where a problem does not exist. There are times it is very busy but that is due to lots of things going on, eg Wednesday evening there are classes, football and running.</p> <p>Would it be free for a certain amount of time so that users of the facilities can continue to park for free? Some sessions are all morning or evening eg paler park Velo, Reading track league.</p> <p>What about all day events? Cycling and athletics would be affected.</p> <p>Would users get refunded?</p>
56)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>What follows is Palmer Park Bowling Club's submission to Council Officers at the meeting with other Palmer Park based clubs held at Palmer Park Stadium.</p> <p>Palmer Park Bowling Club</p> <p>(a) The need for car parking charges at Palmer Park. The expanding local residents' Permit Parking and on-street parking charges increases the likelihood that public car parks, such as Palmer Park, need to impose restrictions and appropriate charges.</p> <p>(b) The principal reason for introducing Parking Restrictions at Palmer Park. The principal reason for imposing Parking Restrictions is to ensure, as far as possible, that only bona fide or legitimate park users use the car park.</p> <p>(c) Who benefits from the proposed parking charges. The proposed charges mean that anyone using the car park for two hours or less will have free parking. The scheme allows for free parking for all of the 37 Reading Sport and Leisure (RSL) classes held at Palmer Park Stadium and the Children's Activity Parties that can be provided. Five- a- side footballers and other users such as Café visitors and dog walkers are also likely to benefit from 2 hour free parking.</p> <p>(d) Palmer Park Bowling Club is a special case. (Acknowledging that all Park-based clubs have their own case to argue.)</p> <p>1. Palmer Park Bowling Club has been at the 'Heart of the Park' since 1910.</p>

2. The Club is managed, maintained and funded by its membership. This includes maintenance and repair of the clubhouse, cutting of the green (3 times a week), maintaining the outside area including flower beds and internal fencing. Members volunteer throughout the winter to ensure this facility is maintained to a high standard. The extended clubhouse and the internal alterations were funded by members and the work was carried out by club members.

3. Lawn Bowls is a competitive and social sport.

Club matches against other teams can take place 5/6 times a week. Weeks vary because the club also plays away from home. Matches will take between 4 and 6 hours to complete. Many individual players will find themselves playing matches 3/4/5 times a week quite easily. (This does not take into account being in Palmer Park for Club and County competitions, plus maintenance, green preparation and other club requirements.) Many individuals will be attending the Club at least three times a week, and each time will be incurring a parking charge. Lawn Bowling from April to September is not a once a week activity.

4. Parking Charges and the effect on playing bowls at Palmer Park.

Under current proposals, it is apparent that Lawn Bowls will inevitably incur parking charges every time Bowls is played. Is that fair?

It is known that Parking Charges, when added to other playing fees, is often the last straw for visiting clubs. The result is that players are reluctant to play at some venues and fixtures can suddenly not be fulfilled. Without fixtures, Clubs become non-viable.

Palmer Park Management Committee manage the facility, on behalf of its members and the community, for the current and future generations of bowlers and do not want to see 110 years of existence disappear. Parking charges may be a critical factor in Palmer Park Bowling Club's survival unless special provision is made.

5. Currently, the age range of members is 50 to 97 years. 60 -70 members. Bowls is a game that is often characterized as being played by old people. Well it is! Palmer Park encourages all ages to try bowls as it is definitely a sport for all ages. Rather than apologizing for our age profile, Palmer Park embraces it and believes that Lawn Bowls provides healthy exercise, promotes wellbeing, confidence, self-esteem and social connectedness of tremendous benefit to all ages especially the older generation.

Palmer Park Bowling Club is an excellent example of a local park bowling club. It should be recognized as such and given all the support it needs to survive and prosper.

Reading Borough Council should be proud of the Bowling Club that is, as it says, at the 'Heart of the Park'.

6. What Reading Borough Council Gains from supporting Palmer Park Bowling Club.

A sport and leisure facility for elderly people that promotes health and wellbeing, social and community connectedness at no cost to Reading Borough Council.

A self-sustaining bowling club that manages an area of an historic park at no cost to Reading Borough Council. A visible, welcoming, high standard facility that is managed and open to all people, community groups and organisations who would like to experience the sport of bowls. A facility that is well kept and an important historic part of the park at no cost to Reading Borough Council.

Reading Borough Council Pride in continuing to support a Bowling Club that has existed since 1910 on a Green that the Local Authority officials and councillors opened in 1908.

7. What we want.

Sufficient car parking provision, free of any charge at any time, for Bowlers or Club Members attending Palmer Park Bowling Club to fulfil its purpose or function. For example; bowls matches, competitions, grounds and green maintenance, clubhouse maintenance, management meetings, social and other events.

What we think would work is for the club to be able to issue Permits for those people engaged in Bowls Club matches etc. at any given time. The permits would be returnable to the club and re-issuable on any given day. On some days, the club might need say, 10 car park permits and in the normal course of events it would be very unlikely to go beyond 30 car park permits. Some days it could be few and far between. Special events parking will need to be discussed or managed as and when required. The flexibility and control of issuing such permits is best managed by the club itself to enable it to be self-sufficient and no cost to the council.

The other Club suggestion is that the old entrance to the park to be made accessible by club members and a Club Car Park be established and controlled by Club officials on the driveway, or between the café and the Green.

What the Club offers is to co-operate, manage and oversee a system that serves to meet our wants and needs in order to be self-sufficient and no cost to Reading Borough Council.

Additional concerns:

More than one stay in car park on the same day.

Further to this paper, it is apparent that there is likely to be an issue regarding a person making more than one visit to the car park on any given day. As the Bowling Club is self-managed it is quite probable for members to be involved in maintenance of clubhouse, Green and surrounds as well as a match later in the day. Sometimes Bowlers may have an afternoon and evening commitment. How will the system cope with re-entry on the same day?

As Bowls is a Sport and Social Activity it is quite likely that on occasions members and guests will be leaving the car park after 10pm or might accidentally return to car park at 10.05pm. From what I understand, for those 5 minutes the charge would £2 BUT, having not paid that in advance I presume a fine would be imposed. This

	<p>is not and will not be appropriate for Bona fide users of an established club within Palmer Park.</p> <p>As there has been no follow up to our joint Park-based Clubs discussions and not knowing what provision is to be applied to allow the function and survival of Palmer Park Sports Clubs, I am left in the position of having to Object to the proposal.</p> <p>I use this facility as a volunteer on Monday night cycling and spend average of 4 hours, which involves setting up and packing up. Two hours free parking will not be enough</p>
57)Church user, Objection	<p>As a member of Park United Reformed Church, I wish to object to the proposal to introduce car parking charges in Palmer Park. This car park is used for many church and social activities by a number of people, including the elderly and the young. Despite the fact that the first 2 hours would be free, a parking charge could well exclude many vulnerable people from being able to participate in longer activities which are their only form of social interaction and support. I hope you will consider the wellbeing of the many affected people when coming to your decision. Sincerely, Pam Booth</p>
58)Objection	<p>I do not understand why this is needed. I never have a problem parking to use the facilities, which are quite expensive already.</p>
59)Palmer Park user, Support	<p>I don't mind paying for parking as long as there are enough ways to pay. I.e. Ringo Parking or pay by phone or text options available.</p> <p>Would there be cost reductions to people who are at Palmer Park stadium of scheduled events and training that can last from 2-4 hours?</p>
60)Support	<p>Support, however there should also be punitive charges on those who stay more than 24 hours</p>
61)Objection	<p>It is getting way too expensive in Reading. I live in the villages and already try to avoid coming into town.</p>
62)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>The children and adults who specifically use the velodrome are very often required to stay longer than 2 hour at the track due to the nature of the sport.</p> <p>Please could we introduce a system where those using the track can still park without having to pay for more than 2 hours or getting a penalty? I often spend from 8 am to 12 noon at the track on Saturday morning supporting my son. It is the only sport he does now and I am keen for him to remain active. I do not want to have to pay parking for an additional 2 hours each week.</p> <p>I would be happy to get a stamped ticket from reception to put on the dashboard to indicate that I am a velodrome user. One possibility?</p>
63)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>If the aim is truly to provide car parking for legitimate users of the leisure facility, then the free evening time of up to 2 hours is not quite enough to cover time spent using the facilities if you were to attend a 1hr45 session allowing for before and after time for changing clothing, setting up of equipment, packing away of equipment etc.</p>

	<p>If there was some mechanism for claiming parking costs back, or a lengthened free parking time then I would welcome this proposal.</p> <p>I travel from [REDACTED] to use Palmer park, as it is my closest Velodrome. At no point have I had issue getting a parking space, and when I leave the car park is almost empty.</p>
64)Palmer Park user, Support	<p>Reading Branch of the British Sub Aqua Club (Reading BSAC)</p> <p>A number of our Members have enquired as to what the Blue Badge Parking arrangements might be, once RBC introduces Pay and Display Parking at Palmer Park.</p> <p>And they have specifically asked if there will be Blue Badge Parking Spaces at the RBC Depot/Compound end of the Car Park, where our Clubhouse is situated, and not just outside the Stadium. We have former Members who visit and need Blue Badge parking. A former Member visits regularly in a Carer's car, and always has with a Wheelchair.</p> <p>Thank you for considering the less-Mobile amongst us.</p>
65)Palmer Park user, Comment	<p>Night fees only cover two hours - what about stadium events in the evening greater than two hours?</p>
66)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>I am a user of Palmer Park Stadium velodrome and took out RSL [REDACTED] membership in order to make best use of the facilities. If I am now to pay extra for parking I will consider terminating this. Parking should be included as all users pay to use the Velodrome and often for over 2 hours. I believe that users who pay for facilities or volunteer their time to run these facilities should get unlimited free parking. As a cyclist I only drive there if it is too far to cycle and have no intention of leaving my vehicle there for longer than it needs to be.</p>
67)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>We (Reading Velodrome Racing) organise a weekly event on Monday evenings. Bike riders will be on site between 3 1/2 and 4 hours, officials probably four hours. Which means everyone will be paying £1 on top of the session fee. In the case of youths that is an additional cost of 25 percent. Not long ago we have had to reduce our charges to make the sessions viable. Not to mention the officials who are giving up their time having to pay for the privilege. Therefore we object to the proposal as it stands at the moment.</p>
68)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>This proposed action is clearly aimed at illegal use of the parking facility, particularly by commercial vehicles. It is a sledgehammer approach to a simple problem which has the unfortunate side effect of penalising legitimate users of the stadium, - who are already paying to use the facility. For this reason I object to the proposal in its present form.</p> <p>This anomaly could be mitigated by issuing car badges/stickers to legitimate track/stadium customers.</p>

69)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>In regards to charging for the small car opposite Park URC, I would object to any charging on the following basis;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - this car park is mainly used by the Church or Church Hall users. This is both for worship but also for various community projects. Charging would affect worshipers attending from around Reading as we have a widely dispersed congregation, affecting Parks contribution to the local community. The impact is not only the cost but the increase in use in this being used by the public and residents. - this would likely affect the lettings of these premises, affecting the Churches financial security and contribution to the community.
70)Palmer Park user, Objection	<p>I am objecting to the charges.</p> <p>The council talks of prioritising the park users for the car parks...how does this charge achieve this? What are the projections for these fees, and how do they relate to the costs? Are there any anticipated 'profits' and if so will they be ringfenced back to the park?</p> <p>Many of the users groups of various sporting organisations sessions are for 2 hours or more and the volunteers who run those sessions are there before and after setting up and clearing down. For more than two hours It's these people who will be most punished by these charges and the youth sporting groups that will suffer the most. The bowls club is particularly affected as their events often run in excess of 4 hours.</p> <p>The free period needs to be three hours minimum.</p> <p>Charging for the disabled spaces at the front the park is not helpful.</p> <p>Again charging the people who use the church car park will affect the church workers, who look after the building, the activities there, again is penalising the people who rely on it most.</p> <p>I don't believe the community want these charges nor do they have the same concern that council has about the 'misuse' of the car park.</p> <p>The new residents parking scheme that is coming in the area in the next week means that the park may have changed usage and it would be sensible to give this time to settle in and research what the real issue is.</p> <p>There are many options to prioritise Park users charging every user isn't one.</p> <p>And as part of the newly formed Friends of Palmer Park I would be willing to work with the council to canvas more opinion and research who's using the parking and why, to get a better picture of usage.</p> <p>I'd also like to add that as a dyslexic I have found this exercise extremely challenging, I'm sure I am not alone in that there are many people who may wish to express an opinion and the writing of it down is not the easiest, so they don't bother. Other methods of consultation have to be found, so as not to discriminate.</p>
71)Church user, Objection	<p>I am writing to notify you that the proposed introduction of parking charges to Park URC will adversely affect services delivered by [REDACTED]. We deliver regular [REDACTED] sessions from this venue and our 3 workers need to park there for approximately 6/7 hours each time. This will add a new overhead to the service at a</p>

	<p>time when charities are being financially squeezed from all sides. I urge you not to introduce this charge as it may cause us to reconsider delivering this much used public service from this highly accessible venue.</p>
72) Resident, comments	<p>I've been a resident of Palmer Park for [REDACTED] years and have had to deal with the increasing difficulty of parking on the road. I gather from the recent details sent out that Palmer Park Avenue will not be a permit only road like many of the others in the area which will increase the number of cars wanting to park on PP Avenue.</p> <p>Also, am I right in saying that the United Reformed Church car park is going to be a pay and display or is it only referring to Palmer Park stadium? If it is the church car park then even more cars will be parking on our road. Could you clarify the situation?</p>
73) Church user, Objection	<p>Park U.R. Church, Palmer Park Avenue was started in 1900 a long time ago. Some years ago the hall next to St. Barts Church in London Road was re-opened. One of the Park Ward Councillor had a competition to name that hall and, guess what PARK HALL was chosen. The Councillor had no idea that we already had a hall named that even though we were over a hundred years and in his ward.</p> <p>As this was a complete oversight, our Church, Park Church was granted special concessionary parking in the corner of Palmer Park, near Wokingham Road. Now I understand you are talking about parking charges which will certainly affect all our bookings and everything we run at the Church premises which is continual every day.</p> <p>Is there any way that Church members could still have the concession given us by your Council?</p>
74) Church user, Objection	<p>I am a member of Park United Reformed Church & have used the small parking area mentioned for very many years for both attendance at Divine Service on Sundays but also for Church related activities throughout the week.</p> <p>I am regularly involved in activities & events at Park URC.</p> <p>Any proposed car parking charges would be objected to, quite strongly, as the Church has enjoyed the use of this parking area freely from Reading Borough Council for very many years.</p>
75) Church user, Objection	<p>I am writing on behalf of [REDACTED], who perform mainly choral concert works, who have been a user of halls within Park United Reformed Church for quite a number of years. We object to the proposed car parking charges, as it is likely to have a material impact on our membership and impact our financial viability.</p>

Our membership has a wide age group, from 20s upwards, many of whom are senior citizens, some of whom are in their 80's, and a number with mobility issues, but still want to be actively involved in their long-time hobby.

We have become aware of the Council's intention to introduce car parking charges for the main car park and the small car park within Palmer Park. Currently our members find parking difficult in the small car park as there is no formal parking layout and the ground area is uneven. It has many potholes, especially in the area between the path and the main gate entry and with restricted access, makes it dangerous both for members who are parking there, but also those coming from the main car park, especially as the area is poorly lit. As there is limited parking in the small car park, a number must park in the main car park and finding a space there can take up to 15mins.

But to the issue in hand, the planned implementation of a parking fee, which would be £2 as we rehearsal in an evening for more than 2 hours, whilst may not be to some to be a large amount, we believe will have a disproportionate impact on members attending. We are community organisation and have to date managed to maintain a level of membership, even though a number now travel in excess of 30mins to attend, which has made the association financially viable.

Therefore, to introduce parking charges, we feel will impact the attendance and may put at risk the continuation of our Association and its financial viability.

We enjoy rehearsing at Palmer Park, charges are reasonable, it is central for meetings for the spread of our membership and would not want to move. Therefore, we object to the proposal and seek Reading Council's reconsideration of this proposal.

Whether this proposal goes ahead or not, whilst writing, we would highlight again, the poor state of the small car park and the dangerous potholes in the area in front of the gate and ask that something is done about them. In addition, the path from the main car park to the small car park is very dark and makes some of our members uneasy at having to walk along this unlit, uneven path often in the dark, and would ask that the path has adequate lighting provided.